

**REVIEW OF THE MEXICAN WAR:
EMBRACING THE CAUSES OF THE WAR, THE
RESPONSIBILITY OF ITS
COMMENCEMENT, THE PURPOSES OF THE
AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IN ITS
PROSECUTION, ITS BENEFITS AND ITS EVILS**

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Review of the Mexican war: embracing the causes of the war, the responsibility of its commencement, the purposes of the American government in its prosecution, its benefits and its evils by Charles T. Porter

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CHARLES T. PORTER

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BY CHARLES T. PORTER.

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P R E F A C E.

It is the object of this essay to exhibit the true character of the war in which our country has lately been engaged. It aims to present in a clear and concise manner the facts and considerations which will enable the reader to form a correct opinion concerning the causes of this contest, and the motives and the excuses for its prosecution.

It is its further design to give a view of the consequences of the war; to examine the benefits which have been attributed to it, and the evils, near and remote, of which it has been the cause; to present the duty and the true glory and ambition of the United States; and to point out the manner in which alone peace can be established among civilized nations.

It contains no allusion to political parties. It is no part of its object to inquire what share belongs to each of the glory or the shame of this war. The subject of slavery it has been the endeavor of the author to avoid. The belief that the acquisition of territory for the sole purpose of extending and perpetuating slavery has been the undivided purpose of our government and people for twenty-five years; that for this Texas was settled; that urged by this motive alone, our citizens flew to the assistance of that State in her efforts to establish her independence, and government winked at their participation in her struggle; that for this alone Texas was annexed; that for this alone war was undertaken; that government would never have sought this contest, had it apprehended that any portion of the territory which it desired would ever be secured to freedom; this belief is one to which he cannot subscribe.

It cannot be proven that the war had any necessary connection with slavery. Annexation certainly was not its cause; it only furnished an occasion for it. The circumstances, so far as they are yet known, seem best to warrant the belief that it was waged for the acquisition of territory, irrespective of the character which after legislation might impress upon that territory. It was sustained alike by the north and the south. The spirit which impelled to it was confined to no section of the country. The north rivalled the south in greediness after the possessions of another, and in curseless vindictiveness toward a weak and distracted nation.

The war is here considered as an act, the responsibility of which rests upon the people of the United States, the whole people, the mass of whom, without distinction of section or of party, either aided in its commencement or sympathized with its objects and united in its prosecution.

The work must stand or fall, according to its own merits. If the views advanced in it are sound, and its arguments have weight, it will probably make its way, if not, it must suffer the consequences. If it is worthy of being read, it doubtless will be; if it is unworthy, it will be unfortunate for the publisher.

C O N T E N T S.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTION. Annexation of Texas. The Occasion of the War. Influences which led to Annexation. Geographical unity. Political sympathy. Desire of the South to increase her weight in the Union. Fear of British encroachment. Supposed military advantages of Texas. The resolution of Congress.

CHAPTER II.

ANNEXATION continued. Justice of the act toward Mexico. The right of Mexico to sovereignty over Texas. If possessed at all after her revolution of 1834-'35, lost afterwards by her neglect to enforce it. Her claim in effect abandoned. Texas became independent of right by the Mexican revolution of 1834-'35. Expediency of annexation. To be considered here only so far as it affected our relations with Mexico.

CHAPTER III.

A VIEW of some of the leading events in the intercourse between the two countries, from August, 1843, to October 1845; showing that the design of declaring war against the United States on account of annexation, if ever seriously entertained by Mexico, was at the last date entirely abandoned. The advance to Corpus Christi.

CHAPTER IV.

THE MISSION of Mr. Slidell. The refusal to receive him. Political situation of Mexico on the arrival of our Minister. Her conduct con-

sistent. Duty of the United States. The course adopted by our government. Fall of Herrera. The refusal to send a commissioner threw upon our government the responsibility of future hostilities.

CHAPTER V.

THE advance of our Army to the Rio Grande. This movement a violation of the rights of Mexico, which had been recognized by our Government itself.

CHAPTER VI.

THE advance to the Rio Grande an invasion of the territory of Mexico. Louisiana ceded to us by France in 1803 extended no farther west than to the Neches. This river the western boundary of the Spanish province of Texas prior to 1820. The same river the boundary of the Mexican State of Texas. Texas after her independence never in any legal manner enlarged her territory. The strip of country in question in the exclusive possession of Mexico in 1846. Government aware at the time the order for the advance was issued that it would be an invasion.

CHAPTER VII.

THE Invasion of Mexico the sole cause of the War. Tone of the Mexican Minister. Proclamation of Mejia. Progress of General Taylor. Order of Paredes. His Proclamation. Letter of Ampudia. Arista gives notice that he shall prosecute hostilities.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE Object of this movement of our Army. The reason given by the Executive not the real motive, as proved by the circumstances of the case, and by the dispatches to Mr. Slidell. The provocations urged by our government considered. The war designed to be brought about in such a manner as to throw on Mexico the odium of its commencement.

CHAPTER IX.

THE Declaration of War. The duty of Congress. The consequences which would have followed the performance of that duty.

CHAPTER X.

THE Objects of the War. Conquest. Its Progress. The Treaty of peace.

CHAPTER XI.

THE Benefits of the War considered. The payment of the claims of our citizens against Mexico. The acquisition of territory. Value of this conquest to the United States, and to the cause of freedom.

CHAPTER XII.

THE Evils attending the War. Its Expense. Its Loss of Life—in battle—by disease.

CHAPTER XIII.

THE Duty of the United States toward other nations enhanced by her position. Her duty to Mexico, in particular. These duties violated by this War.

CHAPTER XIV.

THE Influence of this War upon our national character, and on the cause of Liberty and of Christianity at home and abroad. It has introduced crime and vice among us. It has awakened a spirit of conquest. It has lowered the standard of public morality in our country.

CHAPTER XV.

OF the establishment of permanent peace among civilized nations. The means by which this object can be attained. The necessity which will justify a nation in resorting to arms. Prospect of the triumph of peace.